

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Claims 2-13 are pending in this application. Claim 12 has been amended.

Claims 3, 7, 8, 9, 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,608,464 ("Woodham"). The remaining claims were rejected under §103 over Woodham, either alone, or in view of one or more other patent references. Applicant submits that all claims in this application, at least in the form amended herein, are patentable over the cited references for at least the following reasons:

Claim 12 is submitted to more clearly articulate the claimed subject matter. In contrast to Claim 12, Woodham does not disclose or suggest a special effect image generation apparatus for processing an image signal to generate a special effect, that uses luminance and chrominance extraction conditions to determine image conversion. Indeed, while Woodham discusses modifying the luminance and chrominance when modifying an image, there is no teaching of "performing predetermined image conversion in accordance with said various extracted portions of said image signal," where the various portions are extracted in accordance with "luminance and/or chrominance extraction conditions" as claimed in independent claim 12.

In the Woodham apparatus, the operator does not select luminance and/or chrominance conditions to be set, where such conditions are used to extract various portions of the image signal to which is applied a special effect to convert the image signal. Rather, advantageously, in accordance with the invention, a special effect image applied to a portion of an image having a distinctive luminance and color can easily be prepared.

Accordingly, in light of the above significant difference, Applicant's invention of Claim 12 is patentable over Woodham.

The remaining claims in this application are patentable over Woodham based at least upon their dependencies from Claim 12. The additional references applied by the Examiner fail to cure the defects noted above with respect to Woodham. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 2-13 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, and the allowance of this application with Claims 2-13, is respectfully solicited.

The above statements concerning the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinion of Applicant's representative and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees, Applicant's representative respectfully requests the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

It is submitted that the claims in this application, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made for clarification and to round out the scope of protection for the invention.

In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

Respectfully submitted,
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